

**AN ANALYSIS OF LEXICAL AND GRAMMATICAL
COHESION IN DIDO'S SONGS**



RESEARCH PAPER

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by

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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

People need to build a communication in their social life, because they feel important to make an interaction with other people. Communication is a process of transferring a message from a sender (the speaker) to the receiver (the hearer). They usually use a language in direct communication to communicate what they want to say. But, some people use a song as a tool of transferring a message to other people in the world.

According to Frederick (1988: 1), song can be classified as a literature because it deals with every human activity and human experience. This material can express the composer's feeling. The words and ideas built in a song have a specific story. Moreover, the sentences in the lyrics contain the strong emotion, thought, and imagination of the composer.

Because language is both a product and a reflection of the values and beliefs of the society that employs (Cobley, 2001: 134), song reflected the value of social facts and human nature. The construction of any message in the song represents the reality of life such as love, violence, friendship, sadness, happiness and etc. The composer makes a beautiful lyric by putting the nuance and harmony that are supported by music in order to entertain people in the world. Beside that, the message in the lyrics itself can show

human's existence and capability. Furthermore, it can influence other people to feel what the composer felt, and to imagine what the composer wrote in the lyrics. Then, song can be an effective way to send a message to other people in the world.

In this study, the writer takes the song lyrics from the Dido's album that the singer was born as Florian Cloud de Bouneville Armstrong on Christmas Day in 1971. She is a British singer and song writer. Her music genres are pop, trip hop, and alternative rock. Dido collaborated with other personnel to arrange a good music by using some instruments to support her song such as percussions, guitar, drums, piano and recorder. Her songs in *Life for Rent* album was inspired by her experience life (Infoplease. 2010: in www.infoplease.com/biography/var/dido.html). To build the lyrics, the song writers wrote the words in ordinary or simple language in order to be understood on the first hearing. By using word repetitions, the song writer gives the intention to the content to communicate and to deliver the message, thought, and personal feeling more intensely. Then, cohesion is the basic element, besides coherence that connected each word in each sentences.

According to Halliday and Hasan (1976:5), cohesion is a part of the system of a language. It is the connection which exists between elements in the text where the interpretation of the elements is dependent on that another. All the functions that are applied to create relationship between surface elements are categorized as cohesion. Cohesion, which is used to

combine the sentence, consists of lexical and grammatical cohesion. It is the formal links that mark various type of inter-clause and inter-sentence relationship within discourse.

Grammatical cohesion is a combination of terms between sentences that form grammatical aspect and it consists of reference, substitution, ellipsis and conjunction. Whereas lexical cohesion, as stated by Nunan (1993: 28), is a combination of terms between sentences that form lexical components and it can be divided into two types. There are reiterations which consist of repetition, synonym, antonym, and metonym, and then collocation.

For more understanding about cohesion in the lyrics of songs, there is an example that is taken from the lyrics of Dido's song in *Life for Rent* album.

I don't touch you the way I used to
 And I don't call and write when I'm away
 We don't make love as often as we did do
 What couldn't wait now waits and usually goes away
 But listen and think when I say, oh but listen and think when
 I say

Who makes you feel the way that I make you feel
 Who loves you and knows you the way I do
 Who touch you and hold you quite like I do
 Who makes you feel like I make you feel

Two couplets of the lyrics above have the title *Who Makes You Feel* which use simple language that contain a lot of repetitions and the other type of cohesion in order to make a harmony sound when the song to be sung. For grammatical cohesion, there are references that we can see in

the word ‘I’ as first personal pronoun, in the word ‘you’ as second personal pronoun and in the word ‘we’ as third personal pronoun. There are some conjunctions in those couplet such as when, and, but. Moreover, there are substitutions that we can see in the third, seventh, and eighth sentences. The word ‘do’ in third sentence of first couplets substitutes verb phrase of ‘make love’. Then, in the seventh sentence of second couplet, the word ‘do’ substitutes verbs of ‘loves’ and ‘knows’, and in the next sentence, to be exact eighth sentence, the word ‘do’ substituted verbs of ‘touch’ and ‘hold’. Then, for lexical cohesion, we can see that the word ‘I don’t’ is repeated in the first and second line and the word ‘who’ in second stanza is repeated in every line of that stanza.

Based on the discussion of cohesion as a sign relationship such as grammatical and lexical cohesion, the researcher tries to find the signal relationship or signal cohesion and looks for the harmony relationship in Dido’s song lyrics in *Life for Rent* album. Her research is entitled “**AN ANALYSIS OF LEXICAL AND GRAMMATICAL COHESION IN DIDO’S SONGS**”.

B. Limitation of the Study

This research focuses on the cohesion found in Dido’s songs namely “White Flag, Stoned, Life For Rent, Mary’s In India, See You When You’re 40, Don’t Leave Home, Who Makes You Feel, Sand In My Shoes, Do You Have A Little Time, See The Sun”. Cohesion analyzed in Dido’s

songs is in term of discourse combination consisting of grammatical and lexical cohesion.

C. Problem Statement

Based on the research background, the problems proposed in this research are:

1. What are the kinds of grammatical cohesion used in the lyrics of Dido's songs?
2. What are the kinds of lexical cohesion used in the lyrics of Dido's songs?

D. Objective of the Study

Based on the problem statement above, objectives of this research are as follows:

1. To describe the grammatical cohesion in the lyrics of Dido's songs.
2. To describe the lexical cohesion in the lyrics of Dido's songs.

E. Benefit of the Study

In this research the writer hopes that this research will give some benefits, namely:

1. Academic Benefit

The study is hoped to give a new contribution and information to the larger body of knowledge, particularly to the discourse study.

2. Practical Benefit

The study is hoped to enrich knowledge and experience of the writer and another students of Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta or the other universities who have interest to music to understand the use of cohesion used in the lyrics of songs.

F. Research Paper Organization

Chapter I is introduction that consists of the background of the study, problem statement, objective of the study, benefit of the study, and research paper organization.

Chapter II is review of related literature, which deals with previous study, the typical language of song, notion of discourse, type of discourse, discourse analysis, and cohesion.

Chapter III is research method, which discusses type of the research, object of the research, data and source of the data, method of collecting data, and technique for analyzing data.

Chapter IV consists of data analysis and discussion of the finding. The research finding presents the lexical and grammatical cohesion that used in the lyrics of songs in *Life for Rent* album by Dido as the primary data.

Chapter V is conclusion and suggestions.